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Town of Dracut

TOWN HALL 62 ARLINGTON STREET DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS 01826

> James A Duggan Town Manager

For Immediate Release
Official Press Release
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Date: 09/19/2016

Dracut, MA - Public Hearing and Site Visit at Beaver Brook Farm

The Town of Dracut Beaver Brook Farm Committee will hold a public hearing on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6pm to discuss the future use of the Beaver Brook Farm, located at 761 Mammoth Road in Dracut, Ma. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall, located at 62 Arlington Street, in the first floor meeting room. Residents are encouraged to attend to discuss future use options for this unique property.

In preparation for the public hearing on October 13th, residents are also encouraged to attend a site visit at the Beaver Brook Farm on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>October 8, 2016 at 10am</u>. At that time, Beaver Brook Farm Committee members will be present to escort residents through the property. The tour will not include the interiors of structures.

The Town acquired the Beaver Brook Farm in August, 2015 for \$2.5M, which was funded by Community Preservation Act (CPA) monies. The acquisition of this 23.6 acre farm included a 1730 dwelling as well as farm outbuildings. The farm will be restricted in perpetuity from development by one or more conservation, preservation or agricultural restrictions.

Prior to the town's acquisition of the farm, the Beaver Brook Farm Committee was created to develop a long range plan for the use of the property. The property contains the second oldest residence in the Town of Dracut and has a series of farm outbuildings, in various states of repair. The Committee's mandate is to find new uses for these structures as well as for the farm fields. Passive recreation, high school cross country trails, cross country skiing and sledding and other recreational uses are all being considered for the site as well as other potential uses that may be generated by residents. The Committee is also working on a long term strategy to make the farm financially sustainable.

Come to one or both of these events to learn how the California Gold Rush, blue Hubbard squash, airfields, telecommunications towers, historic "curators" and the Dracut School complex on Lakeview Avenue relate to the Beaver Brook Farm. The Committee welcomes your input on the reuse of this property, now that we bought the farm!